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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONField Service Branch
Washington 25, D. C.

June 7, 1946

Special Services Memorandum - 256

Construction-70

Subject: Lumber

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
JUN 18 1946

This memorandum supersedes SSM-253 which should be removed from the active files.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Civilian Production Administration has made some material changes in Direction 1 to PR-33 which controls the distribution of lumber, hardwood flooring and millwork. This change was effective June 6, 1946. Several corrections in the amended Direction as printed June 6, 1946, are necessary. Therefore a new amended Direction 1 to PR-33 will be issued June 11, 1946. Sufficient copies for county office distribution of this June 11 issue will be forwarded to State offices as soon as available.

The amended Direction authorizes distributors to place certified orders each month starting with June for housing construction lumber not to exceed 7 percent of their January 1, 1942 inventory of all softwood lumber, or 2 carloads of such lumber in a calendar quarter at the rate of not more than one car in a single month. Even though ratings have accumulated in excess of this amount the dealer may not place a certified order for more than the above limitation.

Every distributor must reserve 75% of the lumber received in any month on certified orders for delivery on certified or rated orders received during that month. The distributor must not accept certified or rated orders (except AAA) for a quantity in excess of the reserve. The remainder (25%) of any lumber received on certified orders and any lumber in the reserve for which certified or rated orders are not received during the calendar month must be delivered only on uncertified and unrated (except AAA) orders. Additional lumber received on uncertified orders must be sold on unrated orders.

Under this order, CC and HH ratings have equal value at the saw mill or at suppliers other than saw mills.

It should be noted that the distributor is no longer required to hold lumber for 60 days before releasing it on unrated orders but must now release the reserve at the end of the calendar month in which it is received.

The immediate effect of the amended Direction will be to release all lumber received before the first of June for sale on unrated orders, except that which is obligated for rated orders.

Saw mills are required to reserve 50 percent of expected monthly production of softwood lumber instead of the 40 percent as required in the previous Direction. The saw mill regulation applies to any mill, plant or concentration yard which processes by drying, resawing, edging, grading, sorting or planeing 25 percent or more of the total volume of logs and lumber received by it into items designated as lumber, except those establishments known in the trade as wholesale or retail distribution yards. The lumber definition is the same as in the previous Direction.

The conditions affecting millwork and hardwood flooring manufacturers are similar to those applying to lumber. For information on these subjects, the order itself should be consulted.

The above changes will make more lumber available for unrated orders, thereby making it somewhat easier for farmers to secure lumber without priority assistance. It is suggested, however, that county committees observe the operation of the revised controls very carefully. If farmers are still finding it impossible to secure lumber for essential maintenance and repair after a sufficient time has elapsed for the changes to become effective, the condition should be reported through the State Committee to the regional office.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Field Service Branch
Washington 25, D. C.

SSM-257

June 17, 1946

Special Services Memorandum-257

Supplies-60

Subject: Ice

The high temperatures now prevailing throughout most of the United States, the large volume of perishable food shipments in prospect, and the delays in starting operation of additional ice production capacity as a result of strikes and shortages of material, have combined to create a stringency in the ice supply which will probably develop a number of area shortages in the next four months.

The State Committees especially in the West and the Southwest will need to keep thoroughly and currently informed on the ice supply and demand in their respective territories to the end that they will be able to help the ice companies, (1) to keep the plants operating at capacity, and (2) locate surpluses of ice that can be made available for areas that are confronted with shortages. Information can be obtained from the State organization, if any, of the ice industry and from the leaders in the ice industry in each state.

It will not be necessary for our field staff to purchase or transport ice. The problem should be handled as follows:

- (a) If surplus ice is available within the state and is needed to overcome a shortage within the same state, our state offices need only to make the availability known to the ice companies in the shortage areas.
- (b) When it is necessary to move ice from one state to another to take care of shortages, the operation should be directed from the Washington office. Shortages which cannot be met within the state should be reported to the regional office promptly in order that assistance can be given.
- (c) In the case of breakdowns or interruptions to production through mechanical failures or deficiencies, it may be necessary for the Special Commodities Branch to work with the Civilian Production Administration in locating the necessary materials for repairing the plants and even in some instances the establishment of priorities which will secure the earliest possible delivery of repair parts. Consequently, it is desirable that the state offices report breakdowns, fires, plant damage, or other conditions that adversely affect production.



